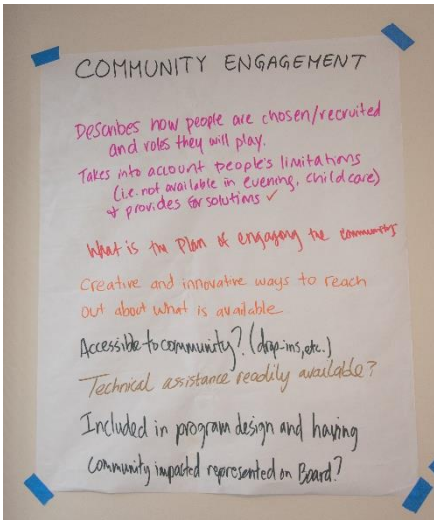




Best Starts for Kids – a collaboration between DCCHS and Public Health – reduced barriers to funding for community-based service providers, enhancing equity in service delivery

The technical assistance program attracted 134 distinct organizations applying for BSK grants – more than 40 percent were first-time applicants for county funding



Project	Leveling the Playing Field for Community Based Organizations (DCCHS & Public Health)
Rationale	<p>Direct alignment to ESJ Plan “community partnerships” goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide resource support to CBOs to leverage their expertise. • Create pro-equity contract processes that are visible and accessible to contractors of variable size and capacity. • Provide non-monetary support to community based partners that build their internal capacities.
Problem	<p>Talking with CBOs revealed barriers to funding opportunities in our own RFP and contracting processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application process is complex and difficult to navigate. • Smaller organizations may not have staff with grant-writing expertise. • RFPs were complex and led with legal language. • Cost-based contracts created barriers for smaller organizations to launch new programs or deliver more complex programs.
Approach	<p>Provided 1600 hours of technical assistance to 134 organizations, and changed RFP and contracting processes to be more accessible to organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance supported applicants to determine eligibility, develop and edit applications and project budgets, and navigate government processes. • Redesigned the traditional cost-based reimbursement strategy in contracts to focus on outcomes and account for start-up costs. • Incorporated capacity building into the actual awardee’s contract, helping them further develop their programs and refine their budgets.

King County
Executive’s
 Performance
 Excellence Award

PROJECT TEAM:
 Andrea Akita
 Dan Brandes
 Sheila Capestany

Chris D’Abreau
 Jen DeYoung
 Bonnie Fluckinger
 David Gistarb

Hannah Johnson
 Vittoria Lin
 Megan McJennett
 Marcy Miller

Tino Salud
 Sarah Wilhelm
 Alex Yoon